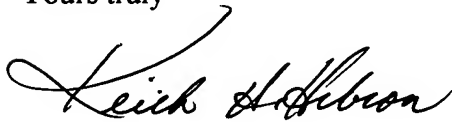


- d. Regarding Claim 10 and 11, and in review of Hoffman 062', he does not disclose the majority of the claims you have stated on page 5 of your summary other than mention the commonality of most actuators which is braking in any position. He makes no mention of the 12 VDC power systems, its connections or grounding. In addition, there is no mention of installing a lift system on either side of the truck bed.

In completing an exhaustive patent search regarding my patent application, I was quite confident that there has never been a similar application presented to either the Canadian or US Patent Offices. The concept of opening a canopy or topper was started in the 1960s, however all attempts involved openings were from the front or back of a truck bed and not from the sides e.g.: (US-4,101,162). Hoffman 062' was very specific to opening only an tonneau cover as I am very specific to opening a canopy (Canada) or a topper (USA). Although we share the same thoughts regarding power packs, they are as different as night and day. The Hoffman 062' actuator would have a hundred pound (100 lb) thrust as compared to mine with a thousand pound (1000 lb) thrust, both with completely different mechanics.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your office action summary. Although it is work related to you, it was a very constructive and learning experience to me. I hope I have answered all of your questions and look forward to a successful completion of this application.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith H. Hebron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Keith H. Hebron

Attached

- a. certified copy Canadian application
- b. information disclosure statement
- c. revised claim statement